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DIDSBUY REVIEW

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Fostering frustration

Family says foster care rules need to change

BY TAMARA CUNNINGHAM
Review Staff

Karla and Mark Fruson were eager to give a foster child a stable home on their farm, east of Didsbury.

But after a year of paperwork, training and home checks, the couple ran out of steam.

"All we wanted to do was help hurting kids ... give them a safe spot in their stormy lives, but (Alberta Children and Youth Services) made that too difficult," Karla Fruson said.

"After awhile, we just gave up."

In 2008, Alberta's minister of children and youth services announced tougher regulations for foster homes, including monitoring new homes during the first six months of operation and consistent assessment guidelines for foster families.

The new rules, a result of a provincewide foster care review, had families expressing concern this would only make it more difficult to attract new foster families or get potential families approved.

Two years later, that's exactly what happened, Didsbury families say.

But Yvonne Fritz, newly appointed minister of child and youth services, says the "very stringent and very rigorous process" was what stakeholders called for during the review to better protect children in the province's care.

"The former system didn't have strong enough practices ... we needed rigid guidelines in place and that's what we (now) have," she said.

The new rules haven't squashed the amount of foster homes operating in the province, she added.

In the last year numbers of foster homes in Alberta have risen by 77, from 2,301 to about 2,378. Although, Fritz also announced this month that at least 100 of those homes are "overcapacity," providing care to more children than they are licensed to have.

The demand for space doesn't seem to be met and that's frustrating, especially since there seems to be a wealth of families turned away, Fruson said.

"I think you'd be surprised to hear how many families here have tried and failed ... we were all there, we were all ready to help and we were all turned down."

The Frusons applied in 2008, the year the new rules came into effect, and passed the first few steps of the process, including a background and criminal record check and caregiver training.

After a year of waiting, the couple was told they failed their home assessment - the last phase, where an Alberta child services worker visits the family and looks at parenting skills and home safety.

The reason they flunked?

Their dugout was placed too close to the home and presented a drowning issue.

Fruson was flummoxed. Her three children have grown up around the pond without it ever being an issue, but she offered to fence it if it meant they could foster.

"It was the only thing they found wrong so I asked what fence they would need around it so it would no longer be a problem. They said they didn't know. They had never dealt with a dugout issue before."

See Foster Care pg 3

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Carla Victor/Didsbury Review

SIGNS OF SPRING - Didsbury High School leadership committee members Taylor Underwood and Bobbie Keding change the school sign announcing spring break is just around the corner.

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Residents design new vision for east side

BY TAMARA CUNNINGHAM
Review Staff

Twenty residents put their heads together last week to design a new look for Didsbury's east side.

The exercise will help the town create a redevelopment plan for the area stretching across to Hwy 582 and 15 Ave. and down 20 Ave.

"Eventually industry will be moving out of this area to newly annexed land and we want to know what to put in that area instead – boulevards, shops, parks or more industry," said Brittany Hutton, manager of planning and infrastructure for the Town of Didsbury.

"This isn't something that will happen right away but over the next 20 years or so."

At the meeting, people brought up needs for everything from more downtown parking to pedestrian walkways

and maintaining the sense of community. At least half of the crowd believed as industry naturally progressed to the 14 sectors of annexed land reserved for them, the east side should start to mirror the historic downtown core.

Terry Laurin, who lives on the east side of the tracks, turned up at the meeting to see what the town was considering with the area.

"It's nice to know the town is putting some thought behind what's happening in town and that we can make this place more attractive," he said.

"As it is, there's too much brown space."

Laura Tanner, who also took part in the planning session, believes it's important for people to get involved in the future of this town.

She's hoping to see the east side absorb the downtown's charm, with small storefronts, places to walk and two-

storey buildings.

"I think the biggest issue will be the tracks and figuring out how to deal with them. They divide the town and have this ugly, brown space on either side," Tanner said.

"Someone raised the idea of accepting the railway as part of our heritage and putting old fashioned station benches near the tracks and street lamps up. I like that."

Project designers attending the event, used participants' ideas to do a quick sketch of what development across the tracks could look like. The first step could be designing a park on the strip alongside the railway.

Mayor Brian Wittal heard some concern from the crowd that the redevelopment plan will never come to fruition and said the park could be laid down within the next two years to show taxpayers something tangible. The draft plan will be presented in May at an open house.

In brief

Star enthusiasts turn out

A coffee and conversation series at the Didsbury Museum has sparked new interest from residents, who gathered last week to hear a talk on astronomy.

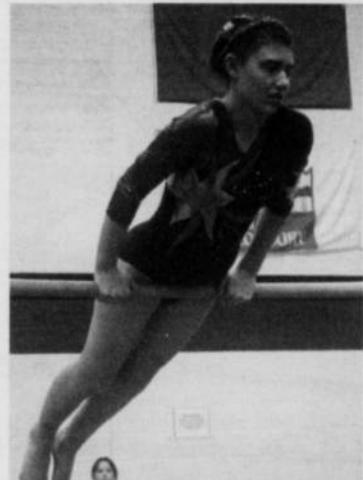
Twenty people sat in on the free event, nibbling on strawberries and pie, as Ken From, a star enthusiast from All-Star Telescope told them how he fell in love with the sky.

People could ask him whatever they wanted – and they did, raising questions about everything from how a star is made to what the sky looked like hundreds of years ago.

"It was tremendous," said Fae Punter, who attended the event for the first time.

"It was very enlightening. He really spoke my language and I will definitely be back to learn more."

The museum has been hosting a coffee and conversation event every second and fourth Wednesday since January but has recently started a speaker series. On May 26 the museum will bring in a bee-keeper to talk about the honey industry.



Tamara Cunningham/Didsbury Review

MAKING A MOVE - Tatyanna Boettcher, 14, works the bars recently during Didsbury's Fun Meet.

More speakers could be in stock if the honey talk draws in a good crowd, said museum society president, Frankie Kelly.

"We want to help get people – especially seniors – out of the house to relax and talk ... and get more use out of this building. We think this is a good way to do that," Kelly said.

Community celebrates all volunteers

Didsbury's Family and Community Support Services is honouring volunteers differently this year, with hopes of drawing out a large crowd.

For the first time, April 20, the organization will celebrate all volunteers in this town with a party at the Zion Evangelical Church. The Didsbury High School Band will provide the entertainment as the community enjoys punch, coffee and dessert.

Over 100 people are anticipated – up from 2009's 75 attendees.

"We feel like we have chased people away by offering (individual) awards because people didn't want to be recognized in front of everyone ... so this year

we will celebrate all the volunteers in this community whether they gave an hour or a year," said Jolene Leutschaft, FCSS coordinator.

FCSS and the Community Services Board decided a change was needed as fewer non-profits picked volunteers for awards. The group has struggled to fill empty nomination categories, such as the Volunteer Award and Family Volunteer Award.

And when they did find volunteers to celebrate, often those people would refuse to attend the event where they would be honoured with a photo and plaque.

"People kept saying they volunteer because they want to, not to get an award ... so we struggled to get them to come," Leutschaft said.

"We think by celebrating everybody, people won't be as reluctant to show up."

Graffiti artist sought

Police are on the lookout for a graffiti artist who drew on a car and stop sign, March 20.

A felt pen was used to draw on a vehicle parked on Westhill Drive and a stop sign on 15th Avenue and 16th Street.

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Keding finds songwriting magic

BY TAMARA CUNNINGHAM
Review Staff

Eighteen-year-old Bobbie Keding stepped into the spotlight after a weekend songwriter's intensive; adjusting her guitar and flipping through her notebook as the crowd waited in the dark, just off the stage.

"I brought this song with me because it didn't feel finished. I didn't really like it ... and then yesterday I had some help putting it together," she said.

"I don't think we've called it anything yet but it's kind of ... a man-hatting song."

The crowd chuckled, and a few people videotaping the wrap-up concert Sunday afternoon, bent down to whisper, "that girl has stage presence."

Keding is no stranger to the stage – or the spotlight.

The Didsbury High School senior grew up with a mom who sang and a dad who wrote music and when she took up the guitar two years ago, Keding began to do both. She often tests out her new tunes at Mugs Coffee House or Didsbury High School during open mike nights.

"My parents always wanted me to sing but I was too shy. Now they see me singing and writing music and I think they've stepped back, hoping I go with it but not wanting to push me," she said.



Tamara Cunningham/Didsbury Review
Didsbury's Bobbie Keding pairs up with Sean Sonego of Edmonton to perform "It Takes a Man". The duo were part of a weekend-long songwriter's intensive.

Keding hopes to pursue singing and songwriting when she graduates this spring and applying for Olds' first Young Songwriter's Intensive seemed like a step in that direction.

She used the high school's recording equipment to tape Tell Her, a song she'd written, and sent it off to the intensive's organizers at Calgary's Epcor Centre for Performing Arts.

"I liked the idea of an intensive and I was confident in my song but I had no idea what they were looking for or if I'd get in," she said.

Keding became one of 11 Chinook's Edge students selected to take part in the three-day event at the Fine Arts and Media Centre in Olds. Two students from Calgary and Edmonton

also joined in, learning everything from stage presence to how to improve on their music. Alberta musicians Colleen Brown and Scotty Hills led the workshops.

"This is the first time we have branched out to Olds and I think we will definitely do this again," said Geoffrey Ewert, Community programs manager for the Epcor Centre for Performing Arts.

"I was amazed at how much talent there is at this age and it's cool they were all able to take this in and focus on what they have going for them ... it made it a magical experience," she said.

The students all agreed the best part of the weekend was the jam sessions late at night, when they all crammed into one dorm room. A few songs featured at the wrap-up

concert Sunday were from those evenings, when the group meshed together their ideas and backgrounds.

For Keding, she will bring home with her new friendships with musicians in the region. She expects it won't be long before they get back together to jam or perform.

"This was just fantastic. Awesome. You really bonded together and then you also got to decide where you were going with your music – whether you'd write songs for other people to sing or sing them yourself," she said.

"I definitely want to sing my own lyrics."

Keding can be seen singing at the annual 96.5 Country Star Search at the Didsbury Art, Travel and Trade Expo, April 10.

Foster care

Continued from page 1

Still hoping for a chance to take in a "hurting" child, Karla and Mark asked if they could foster younger children, who wouldn't be able to go outside without parent supervision, but they didn't get a response. It seemed like the ministry wasn't willing to work with them, Fruson said.

They have since moved on from the idea, believing it was not meant to be – Sheree Andrews knows how they feel.

She applied six years ago to be a foster parent; confident that with her background in special needs care she had a lot to offer. Three years later, however, she too failed the application process.

"I was honest with them (during the home assessment) and said I believe in spanking ... I mean my kids probably

can't remember the last time they were spanked, but I believe in doing it."

The social worker evaluating her home asked if she would agree not to use corporal punishment if she got a foster child and Andrews agreed to sign a contract to that accord. But then, the worker asked her to sign a clause saying she wouldn't spank her biological children either and that's where Andrews drew the line.

"I was willing to do everything they asked but on principle I couldn't sign the clause about my own children, so they turned us down."

The ministry told her she couldn't appeal the decision, but she was welcome to apply for an adoption from the foster system instead. She did and was turned down again three years later for what she believes is the same reason.

"What ticks me off, is that a Alberta social worker visited us when we applied to adopt through a Christian agency and approved us," she said.

"It doesn't really make sense ... my only guess is the one they sent us this time understood our family values more. Whatever it was, it makes me wonder if people pass or fail their home assessments based on the personal opinion of the social worker and if that's the case, the process needs to be changed."

The Andrews family is picking up their six-year-old twins from Ethiopia next month.

Hearing the stories – about being turned down for family values to dugouts – has turned Didsbury resident Connie Lahucik off fostering.

She has also heard that an acquaintance of hers – another Didsbury family – fell short of the system because she already cared for five children. Her friend wanted to provide weekend respite as a way to ease into foster care.

"This system seems flawed and it needs to be fixed ... I mean they are really fussy on these home visits and essentially turning down places that may be great for troubled kids," Lahucik said.

"I decided not to bother applying. It seems like there would be quite a kerfuffle and I don't want to mess around."



Tamara Cunningham/Didsbury Review
Mark and Karla Fruson and their children, Julia, Ethan and Carissa stand in front of a dugout that prompted Alberta Children and Youth Services to turn down their application for foster care.

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Commentary

Freezing minimum wage in 2010 was a good move

JANINE CARMICHAEL

On April 1, 2010, Alberta's minimum wage will remain at \$8.80/hour. Several years ago, the Alberta government announced that minimum wage would increase automatically every April 1 by the same percentage as the year over year increase in average weekly earnings in the province. However, this year the government decided to freeze minimum wage at \$8.80 and have an all-party committee review the process used to increase minimum wage in the future.

It was a good move and the government deserves some kudos.

Putting more income in the hands of lower income Albertans is important and it's a goal shared by the business community. However, raising the minimum wage is not the only way to achieve that goal. While most employers pay above minimum wage already, the extra cost can force some to make the tough choice of reducing hours, or passing up the opportunity to hire more staff. In that case, minimum wage hikes can actually hurt those it's supposed to help.

That's why freezing minimum wage in 2010 was a good move, particularly heading into this year's summer student hiring season.

Hopefully this all-party committee review will include consultation with employers. If so, MLAs will hear about a range of options to help lower income Albertans.

For example, in British Columbia and Nova Scotia they have a slightly lower minimum wage for those who are brand new to the workforce. The idea of this "training wage" is to recognize the significant investment employers make in training new workers.

In Ontario, there is a slightly lower minimum wage for those under the age of 18 and for those who serve liquor. In Quebec, there is a separate wage for those who earn tips as a large proportion of their income.

Another option would be to further increase the basic personal exemption. In 2010, all Albertans can earn \$16,825 before paying provincial income tax. Someone working full-time earning minimum wage would earn \$18,304. Why not raise the basic personal exemption so that no Albertan earning minimum wage pays any provincial income tax at all? It would be an expensive change, but one that would be shared by all taxpayers. And that certainly sounds like a better approach than simply hiking the minimum wage and asking employers to pick up the tab and potentially hurting some lower income Albertans.

Janine Carmichael is the senior policy analyst for western Canada with the Canadian Federation of Independent Business.



Commentary

Time to spring into action

DAN SINGLETON



The old adage that there's no time like the present can apply to many things. When it comes to being physically active during leisure times, a recent national study finds that the time is ripe for more people of all ages to get with it.

The Statistics Canada study found that while more Canadians are becoming physically active during their leisure time, far too many people continue to live unhealthy sedentary lifestyles. And that translates into added pressure on the health care system due to related illnesses.

While it's a well-known fact that being physically active can help with heart health, weight control, stress reduction and many other things, whether the various levels of government are doing enough to help people get and keep fit remains an open question.

The study found that almost 50 per cent of the population aged 12 or older – almost 13 million people – were classified as "inactive" during their leisure time, meaning that they do the equivalent of less than half an hour of walking each day.

As well, half of all Canadians reported that they usually sat most of the day. And during a typical week, 41 per cent of Canadians spent less than one hour walking to get to school or work or to do errands.

The study also found that age, sex and level of income were among the factors that influenced an individual's level of physical activity.

"Individuals in higher income groups were more likely to engage in physical activity in their leisure time. Immigrants, regardless of how long they had been in Canada, were less likely to be at least moderately active in their leisure time than were Canadians overall," study officials said.

While the study does not identify specific populations within

provinces, it does say that rural residents are generally more active, and hence more fit, than their counterparts in large urban centres.

With the health system under increasing pressure due to an aging population, there is no time like the present to make physical activity a priority.

And governments at all levels should be doing their part to make that happen by making the necessary investments in facilities such as swimming pools, arenas, bike and walking paths, public gyms and the like.

In West Central Alberta, for example, there is a growing need for new or upgraded facilities – and local taxpayers shouldn't have to carry the whole burden of building and paying for those facilities.

"Canadians who were active in their leisure time were more likely to rate their health excellent or very good," study officials said.

That's a message Alberta families, MPs, MLAs and town councils will hopefully take to heart this spring.

DIDSBURY REVIEW

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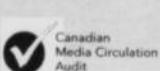
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Library		403-335-3142
Didsbury Museum		403-335-9295

PUBLIC MEETINGS & NOTICES

REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING:

Tuesday, April 6, 2010 at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers

MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSION:

Wednesday, April 14, 2010 at 4:30 pm in Council Chambers

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

Tuesday, April, 20, 2010 at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers

The Town Office will be closed from 11:30 to 1:30 pm April 23, 2010

NEW DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS

THE FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENT PERMITS HAVE BEEN ISSUED FOR THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS:

DP 10-13	102 Valarosa Drive	Single Family Dwelling (with conditions)	R1
DP 10-15	1802- 20 Street	Exterior renovation and signage	C1
DP 10-16	14 Valarosa Court	Single Family Dwelling (with conditions)	R1
DP 10-17	26 Sandpiper Drive	Deck	R2
HO 10-06	1336- 25 Street	Home Occupation - Construction Company (with conditions)	R1

Further information may be obtained at the Town Office, 2037 - 19 Avenue or by calling 335-3391. Persons wishing to appeal any of these decisions must do so in writing, with the appropriate fees, to the Secretary, Development Appeal Board, prior to 4:30 pm on April 13, 2010.

Increase in the Water and Wastewater Utility Rates Effective June 1, 2010

New Utility Rates effective June 1, 2010	New Utility Rates		Old Utility Rates	
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Water Rates	\$ 1.80	\$ 2.10	\$ 1.62	\$ 1.90
Summer Wastewater Rates	\$ 0.78	\$ 0.91	\$ 0.70	\$ 0.83
Winter Wastewater Rates	\$ 1.02	\$ 1.19	\$ 0.92	\$ 1.07

This represents a 10% increase for charges based on volume of consumption.

Council and staff, continue to work hard to ensure that all increases are kept to a minimum and that all other options to reduce costs and build maintenance reserves have been utilized.

If you require any further information, please contact James Reichenbacher, CFO at (403) 335-3391.



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• **ACTIVE PARENTING** - Are you in a power struggle with your family? Learn problem solving and parenting skills that will help you prepare your children to meet the challenges that life will pose. Program runs 6 sessions April 5 - May 17, 7:00pm-9:00pm, with no session April 26. NO COST for this class.

• **WEE SIGN BABY SIGN LANGUAGE** - We teach you, you teach your child. Enhance their early language skills, increase their IQ. 6 lessons included in this one session, Friday, April 16, 2010, 1:30pm-4:30pm at DNP. Cost is \$35.00. Bring baby to class or take your new skills home to teach.

• **COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE** - Saturday, April 24 at the Curling Rink 9:00 am-2:00 pm. Call DNP to book your table now.

For more information or to register, call DNP at 403-335-8719

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY PARKS & RECREATION

The Town of Didsbury is now accepting applicants for the Summer Season positions including Parks Maintenance and Program Leaders.

Please apply with resume to: Roy Brown, Chief Administrative Officer, Box 790, Didsbury AB T0M 0W0 Email: rbrown@didsbury.ca



• **JULIE'S FUNKY FITNESS: Sensational Step Class** - Come work up a sweat in this super fun & energetic step aerobics class. Set to funky tunes & instructed by certified instructor Julie Steed. A chance to get together with friendly fitness folk and burn off some of those unwanted calories. Open to all ages and abilities. Mondays and Thursdays 7:00 to 8:00 pm April 12 to June 24, 2010. Westglen School Gymnasium. Drop in \$5.00 / 10 Pass \$45.00. Bring a towel, comfortable shoes, water, an exercise mat & weights if available.

• **CALGARY ROUGHNECKS LACROSSE CAMP**: This two day camp will teach lacrosse players from skills on and off the pitch to training drills and nutrition tips. Participants will learn valuable lessons and have a fantastic fun time with the Riggers themselves. April 17 - 18, 2010 at the Didsbury Memorial Complex. Spaces limited to 30 per session.

Tyke/Novice/Atom (6-10 yrs old) - 9:00 am-12:00 pm (\$ 60.00)

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Fridays -	3:30 pm - 5:30 pm & 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Saturdays -	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Sundays -	5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

For more information or to register please call the Pool at 403-335-7359

Public Notice

Please be advised that effective immediately, Alberta Animal Services is no longer contracted by the Town of Didsbury to provide animal control or any other bylaw services. If you have any animal related concerns, please continue to submit them to our Action Request Line at 403.335.2030. If you have an afterhours animal emergency that requires the attention of a Bylaw Officer, please contact the town's afterhours pager number at 403.507.3624 and someone will get back to you. During this transition there will be no interruption of service to our residents.



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Offers apply to Alberta residents only. ** APR rate of 8.99% for a new 2010 F-150 XLT 4x4 Super Cab 4x4 Automatic is available to qualified retail lessees on approved credit from Ford Credit. Lease calculation: monthly payment of \$399 [after total price adjustment of \$7,000 is deducted] for 48 months. Additional payments required. \$4,600 down payment (or equivalent trade-in), \$0 security deposit, plus administration fees, pre-delivery, registration, PPSA fees and applicable taxes. Cost of borrowing is 10.79%. Security Deposit may be required by Ford Credit based on customer credit terms and conditions. To qualify for this rate, must finance through Ford Credit Canada Limited. Subject to Ford Credit Canada Limited lending criteria. ** Receive [\$1,000] / [\$1,500] / [\$2,000] / [\$2,500] / [\$3,000] / [\$3,500] / [\$4,000] / [\$4,500] / [\$5,000] / [\$6,000] / [\$7,000] / [\$8,000] in price adjustments when you cash purchase, purchase finance or lease a new 2010 Ford [Explorer 4 door/F-450-550 Chassis Cabs GAS] / [Fusion Hybrid] / Transit Connect/F-350 Chassis Cabs GAS/F-450-550 Chassis Cabs Diesel] / [Focus ST] / [Ranger Regular Cab FEL] / [Fusion S/Taurus SE/Edge SE/Flex SE] / [Mustang Value Leader] / [Escape i4 Manual] / [Ranger Super Cab XL1] / [Explorer Sport Trac 4x4/Expedition/F-150 Regular Cab] / [Ranger Super Cab (excluding XL1)] / [F-150 Super Cab 4x4/F-150 Super Crew 4x4/F-150 Super Crew 4x2] / [F250-450 (excluding Chassis Cabs) model]. Offer valid from March 2, 2010 to April 30, 2010 (the "Program Period"). 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Big changes ahead for Colts

BY TAMARA
CUNNINGHAM
Review Staff

Once the Mountainview Colts got their legs underneath them last season,

they ran wild.

The team, which featured four vets on the blue line this year, had a rough start to the HJHL season with seven straight losses in

November but by early February the Colts picked up their game to notch two win streaks and gain an 11-19-4 record. They moved fourth in the division, ranking above the Banff Academy Bears and carried Airdrie to five in the playoff series before they lost 7-1.

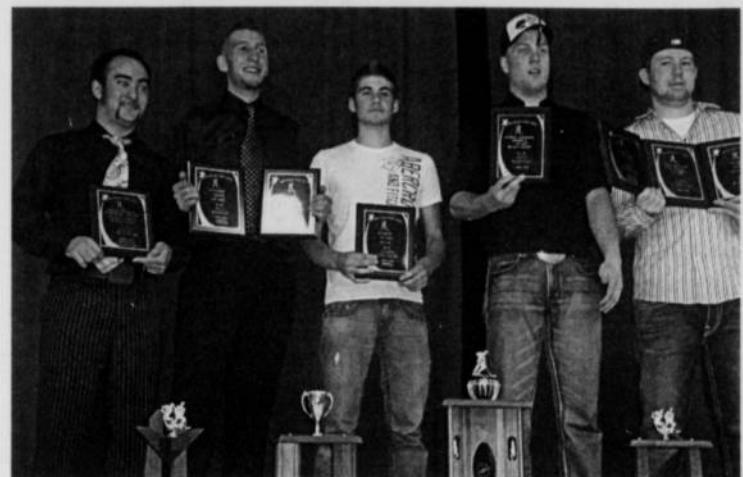
"These guys improved more than any other team I've worked with in 25 years of coaching. They really proved we belong in the league," said Cliff Murphy, during the Colts' award banquet Saturday evening.

Murphy announced to parents, board members and players at the dinner that he plans to take a year off as head coach - his first break since he started his career at 16 years old.

He began with his brother's Atom team in Didsbury for the first 15 years, before coaching the Olds Grizzlies and then the Mountainview Colts.

"It just seemed like a good time to take a break. I still plan to be involved on the board but I am not going to be the head coach ... I'll be yelling at the guys from behind the glass," Murphy said.

A new head coach isn't the only change people can expect next year. Three veteran players won't be on the ice next year as they've exhausted their eligibility, including team captain Danny Miller, goalie Jason Arnason and forward Eric



Tamara Cunningham/Didsbury Review

Mountainview Colts Gary Lyczewski, Eric Becker, Jason Edwards, John Midtdal and Kody Wickham accept awards during the Colts banquet last Sunday.

Becker.

Nineteen-year-old defenceman Braeden Anderson, is expected to play for Fort McMurray's Oil Barons next year, while goalie Devon Dell keeps net for the Quesnel Millionaires in B.C.

Murphy also suspects a Junior A team will sweep up centre Jason Edwards. The 16-year-old Didsbury product has led fourth in scoring this season.

"There will definitely be some holes to fill next year. We have some players and we are encouraging them to seek the next level," he said.

With Arnason gone and Dell courting a new team, this could also be the first

time the Colts have to beat the bush to find a goalie. Though they already have their eye on some local talent, including Didsbury goalie Jordan Kerr.

The annual banquet also featured awards to honour players - wherever they may head next year - and right-wing Kody Wickham swept up the majority of hardware.

He took the title of leading scorer for a 12-11-23 record. He placed 18th in the division for his efforts on the rink. He also won the Michael Brander Memorial Leadership Award and Most Valuable Player.

"I have only gotten an award once before as most

improved player with (the Airdrie Thunder) ... to win three, means a lot. This is from the guys so it shows how much they think of me."

"I went out there this year as a fourth year player and helped show the young guys the ropes and took real pride in doing that. I am glad to know I helped out there."

Wickham plans to play again for the Colts for his final year of eligibility.

Eric Becker also took home awards over the weekend, including Coaches' Award and Fan Favourite.

"There is a trend that the fighters get the award - I'm not too sure how my mom's going to feel about that but ... there you go," Becker said as he accepted the plaque.

Becker racked up 136 penalty minutes over the season. This spring he's finishing off an energy asset management program at SAIT and hopes to get a gig coaching the Colts next year.

Recognition also went to forward John Midtdal, who won the Warren Persinger Heart and Hustle Award and defenceman Gary Lyczewski for the Frank Murphy Outstanding Defenceman Memorial Award. Jason Edwards won Rookie of the Year.

The players cast the award ballots, with the exception of the Fan Favourite Award and Coaches' Award.



myCommunity

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- Special Anniversary, 25, 40, 50, 60, etc.

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In and Around Didsbury

Marge St Clair

The annual St. Patrick's Closing Mixed Bonspiel was a great success again this year. Beautiful green decorations all around all the windows and tables filled with over 100 people for the supper Sat. night. And the results:

A Event - 1. Sean O'Connor - Calgary; 2. Rod Collinge - Didsbury; 3. Terry Barass - Didsbury; 4. Brad Hallbauer - Didsbury.

B Event - 1. John Rusling - Didsbury; 2. Cody Atkinson - Didsbury; 3. Lana Kreiser - Didsbury; 4. Mitch Rauhala - Didsbury.

C Event - 1. Ed Wicks - Sundre; 2. Doug Weigum - Didsbury.

D Event - 1. Alan Stewart - Calgary; 2. Eric Allen - Olds-Didsbury.

Thurs. Apr. 1

All seniors with a birthday in April are welcome to Eldon Foote Hall (train station) after 1:30 p.m. You will enjoy the birthday cake served, songs and meeting new people.

Tues. Apr. 6

The Didsbury Hospital Auxiliary will meet at 2 p.m. in Unit 4 at the hospital. New members most welcome.

Fri. Apr. 9

Cribbage play will resume tonight at 7 p.m. at the 5-0 Centre. Coffee and goodies for all.

Wed. Apr. 14

This is the day for you to enjoy a pot luck dinner at the 5-0 Centre starting at 12:30 p.m. Your favourite meat dish, veggies, salad or dessert will be enjoyed by all.

Wed. Apr. 14

You are welcome to come to the museum from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. for "Coffee and Conversation". A great time to meet new people and learn more about our town and district.

Thurs. Apr. 15

You are welcome to bring your 3-5 year olds to the Didsbury Library from 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. for them to enjoy the stories, songs and rhymes. Please remain at the library with them.

Tues. Apr. 20

Bring your lunch to the library from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. to meet Trina Lonsberry. Trina will be talking about Peer Support Services for Abused Women and Inspiring Teens - programs of support and education that operate throughout Mountain View County.

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Ag society hopeful for larger attendance

BY TAMARA CUNNINGHAM
Review Staff

The Didsbury Agricultural Society could see stands beef up at the annual rodeo this summer, now that Olds has shut down their event.

Olds offered a pro rodeo up until three weeks ago, when it asked the Canadian Pro Rodeo Association to officially strike it off the circuit.

The Olds Agricultural Society cited a loss of \$55,000 to \$130,000 each year for the last decade as fewer people bought tickets for the August fair and rodeo, and has been asking the event's committees to come up with solutions to gain revenue this year. Good ideas saved events – as it did with the Heavy Horse Show and Junior Livestock Show, which have come up with raffles and new partnerships with the Calgary Stampede.

Groups who couldn't think up ways to recoup costs have shut down. The rodeo and Horticulture Creative Art Show are two such events.

The Didsbury Ag Society heard about the rodeo cancellation last week and say they aren't surprised – rodeos are expensive and it's hard to draw a solid crowd.

"Neither Olds or Didsbury are really rodeo

towns ... this isn't western country like Sundre or Water Valley and so it's hard to get as many people interested," said Vair Whitlow, arena director for the Didsbury Agriculture Society.

The Didsbury Rodeo has had its own struggles. It was only able to rope in 500 people last year – 300 less than in 2008 – and like Olds, the rodeo hasn't been much of a money-maker.

But members of the Ag society say they have no plans to shut down and anticipate a stronger year at the 2010 rodeo.

"We have been breaking even for the last 20 years and are still doing fine," said Craig Anderson, president of the Didsbury Agriculture Society.

"And we expect this year to be better. Even though we are a semi-rodeo and not quite the same as Olds, we think more people looking for a local show will come to ours ... and we could also draw more people with our events."

The Didsbury Agricultural Society has budgeted \$2,000 more for the rodeo and fair this year. They hope to install a permanent building to replace the beer garden tent and offer more activities for children, including a midway and a visit from the Giggle Gang, August 19 and 20.



FANTASTIC ENDING TO A GREAT SEASON!

The Didsbury Ramblers Atom Tier 5 Team ended the season as Champions of their Division. They beat formally undefeated Cochrane twice straight in two exciting games to bring home the banner. The team would like to thank the fantastic dedication and work of their coaches and manager. They were led by Jef Chomyn and Kevin Fischer. Our assistant coaches were Kevin Hasselberg, Jason Switzer and Curtis Smith. Our intrepid manager was Leah Hasselberg. The team consisted of: Captains: Logan Visser #8 and Ian Griffiths #29. Assistant Captains: Brett Coates #12 and Mason Mailer #16. Our fearless goalies: Kain Boyd #31 and Caleb Schindel #1. Completing our team: Tyler Chomyn #15, Jamie Coates #20, Kayla Fischer #2, Taylor Gingell #3, Cassie Snyder #17, Dylan Sloan #18, Jamie Coates #20 and Dylan Hasleibert #30. Thank you for all of the great hockey memories!



ALBERTA ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSION 2009/2010
An independent commission of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Alberta

YOUR VIEWS ARE IMPORTANT: HELP SHAPE ALBERTA'S ELECTORAL MAP

The Electoral Boundaries Commission released its interim report on February 24. Provide feedback to the commission on the proposed changes in its interim report by attending one of the public hearings scheduled as follows:

Monday, April 12, 2010
9 a.m. to noon ■ 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. ■ 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Tuesday, April 13, 2010
9 a.m. to noon ■ 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

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Presentations and authors will be made public.

Please register one week prior to the hearing, if you would like to present.

Electoral Boundaries Commission
#100, 11510 Kingsway Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5G 2Y5
Phone: 780.638.3132 E-mail: info@altaebc.ab.ca Fax: 780.422.2900
For toll-free calling, dial 310.0000 followed by the 10-digit phone number.

View the interim report at www.altaebc.ab.ca.

Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission

Chair: Honourable Judge Ernest J.M. Walter

Members: Keith Archer, Peter Dobbie, Brian Evans, Allyson Jeffi

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The Mountain View Gazette and Carstairs Courier
AD BOOKING DEADLINE is Tues., March 30 at 5 p.m.,
copy deadline will be noon Wed., March 31.
We need to have the MVG to press early Thursday.

The **AD BOOKING DEADLINE** for the Didsbury Review and the Olds Albertan will be Wed., March 31 at 5 p.m.,
copy deadline Thurs., April 1 at noon.

Holy Trinity Catholic School Register now for September 2010



Holy Trinity Catholic School, a publicly funded school, will open its doors to children of all faiths in September 2010. **Register now for Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 6 classes.**

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Registration forms are available online at www.holytrinity.rdcrd.ab.ca or at St. Stephen's Church. Completed forms may be returned by fax, email, mail or in person. For more information, please contact school principal, Mr. Blake Krause, or call the Division Office in Red Deer at 403-343-1055.

Blake Krause, Principal

Holy Trinity Catholic School

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LOIS E. SHANNON

Lois E. Shannon (nee Cunningham) was born in Didsbury, Alberta on June 8th, 1922 and lived in Didsbury her entire life. She passed away quietly at the Didsbury Hospital on March 20th, 2010 after a brief illness.

Lois married Donald Shannon, also from Didsbury, in 1942 and they enjoyed many happy years together until his untimely death in 1982. She was also predeceased by her brother Clarence A. (Hoop) Cunningham of Taber in 1999.

She is survived by her sister Alma Shannon, her son Richard (Leanne) Shannon, her daughter Kathleen Dobson, her granddaughter Rachel (Andrew) Zollinger, her grandson Mark Shannon and her beloved great grandson Sam Andrew Zollinger, all of Calgary. She is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews and great-great nieces and nephews on both sides of her extended family.

In the early years, Lois followed her husband's travels in the road construction business, keeping house for her family in a "modest" trailer and often cooked meals for the crew in primitive circumstances. Lois also worked in the retail business in Calgary during WWII and in Didsbury in later years. She was a volunteer at the Didsbury Hospital and the Didsbury Museum and her advice was often sought as the Museum tried to identify old pictures from their archives. She was very involved in planning and organizing many Didsbury School Reunions and took great pleasure in keeping in contact with her classmates.

Lois was voracious reader and kept a meticulous diary of the books she had read, noting her comments on the quality of the author's writing, the propriety of the subject matter and the language used in particular books, many of which failed to meet her standards! She took great pride in the career and personal accomplishments of her children and grandchildren. She was also an avid student of history and geography and particularly enjoyed her trips to the British Isles and British Columbia with Kathleen and followed with keen interest Rachel's travels in Europe and the Middle East and Mark's adventures in Australia and Southeast Asia.

Lois took tremendous pleasure in her home and garden and in keeping up with friends and family. She lived independently on her own terms in her home until a series of health issues, beginning in late 2009, caused her to spend a few weeks in the hospital. Her passing marks the end of an era for the Cunningham and Shannon families, who settled in Didsbury in the early part of the 20th century.

Lois Shannon lived a quiet life of personal integrity and she will be greatly missed by her family and friends. A celebration of her life will be held at a time and place to be announced at a later date.

180. Thank You 180. Thank You


THE DIDSURY RAMBLER MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

would like to give a big thank you to all of the parents, board members, refs and players for making this year such a success!!

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5110. Houses For Rent

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References required.
403-638-3049

5130. Apartments For Rent

SPACIOUS 3 BDRM. 1.5 bath, balcony. Avail. May 1, N/P. \$640/mth. plus utilities. 403-348-6594

5135. Suites For Rent

AWESOME NEW & CLEAN 2 bdrm. suite. This new suite boasts a brand new bridge stove, stackable washer/dryer and large eat-in kitchen! In-floor radiant heating and energy efficient windows keeping you toasty warm in the winter and the ability to keep you seasonally cool in summer. All window coverings are modern, tasteful and included. This suite is located in a new development in Didsbury \$900+ plus utilities. Call Ally today to view this suite today!! 403-586-2424 www.omnihousing.ca

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New Home" Didsbury.** Bright 1 bdrm lower walk-out suite that includes energy efficient in-floor heating and windows, your own convenient brand new in-suit laundry and kitchen appliances, tasteful window coverings and it's all yours for \$700 plus utilities! Call Ally today 403-586-2424 Visit www.omnihousing.ca for photos and more details.

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Headquartered in Woodstock, New Brunswick, Barrett Xplore Inc. operates Xplornet Internet Services, Canada's largest rural broadband provider, with customers and dealers in every province and territory. Barrett Xplore Inc. aims to bridge the urban/rural digital divide by ensuring that every Canadian, regardless of where they live, has access to broadband, thereby enabling them to compete effectively in the global economy and gain access to essential government and educational services. Barrett Xplore Inc. employs over 400 people across Canada and maintains Customer Contact Centres in Woodstock, NB and Fredericton, NB. www.xplornet.com

We are currently recruiting for a Field Operations Architect in Alberta, working out of a home office preferably in the Calgary area. The Field Operations Architect will bring expertise in field service with a focus on wireless and satellite access technologies to a team responsible for the support and maintenance of wireless ISP services infrastructure. This advanced technical and field support role will provide advanced troubleshooting and maintenance support to Xplornet wireless and satellite sites, advanced technical support to Dealers and their Installers while working closely with the Field Operations Teams. This role will liaise with dealers and Network Operations on complex Technical problems. This position reports to the Director of Engineering and Operations West.

This position requires completion of related post-secondary diploma/degree or an equivalent combination of education and/or experience. The Field Operations Architect must have previous experience with point to multi-point wireless networks and K band Satellite networks with an ISP. Advanced RF troubleshooting skills are required with proven experience on a wide array of spectrum analyzers and other RF tools. Sound knowledge of Motorola Canopy and Expedition products and methodologies or other equivalent products is required. CCNA/equivalent certification or relevant work experience with IP networks would be beneficial. The successful candidates will also demonstrate telecommunications construction knowledge with a proven ability and desire to work in the field. Successful performance in this role will necessitate well developed managerial, negotiation, project management and excellent written and verbal communication skills. The ideal candidate should be comfortable working in a team environment yet have the ability to work independently with minimal direction in a high stress, physically demanding environment. Daily travel with occasion overnight stays will be expected.

Barrett Xplore Inc. offers a competitive compensation package with excellent company benefits, including matched participation in a group RRSP and a comprehensive health and dental plan.

We thank all applicants for their interest but wish to advise that only those selected for an interview will be contacted. If you are interested in this opportunity please send your cover letter and resume to:

Email: careers@barrettxplore.com

Fax: (866) 881-9391

Please note "Field Operations Architect" in the subject line when applying.

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Can your company clean up? You'll provide janitorial service for our 2,708-square-foot Olds office. This two-year contract begins May 1, 2010.

Fax your quote to 306-780-8641 or email jon.starcevich@fcc-fac.ca by April 7.

For janitorial specs or any other details, call Jon at 306-780-6384.

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Canada

5170. Duplex / 4-plex for rent 5600. Commercial

APRIL 1ST - ALMOST New 1/2 Duplex, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fireplace, fenced with garage and storage shed. Two available. \$1175.00 plus utilities. Great Prices: call Tracy or Charmaine: 403-208-5021/ 403-477-7449 View at www.albertahomeirent.ca

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FOR RENT - 20'X50' Commercial Bay with 12'x14' overhead door. In secured fenced lot. Has its own heater, bathroom and floor drain. All utilities included. \$1200/mth. Phone 403-335-2810

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FRONT PORCH REALTY

36 Westpoint Drive

Gorgeous custom built home, over 1500 sq ft, hardwood, gas fireplace, amazing kitchen, fully finished, excellent location!



\$419,900

36 Westhill Crescent

Nice area of town! 3 + 1 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, main floor laundry, great yard with R.V. parking and oversized single garage



\$269,900

1909 - 17 Street

Lovely 1900's home, fully finished, 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, walk-in closet in master, just move on in!



\$239,900

1404 - 22 Street

Beautiful 2 year old home, fully finished, 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, jetted tub, hardwood, kitchen island, walk-in closet in master, just move on in!



\$339,900

101 - 104, 1114 Nanton St. Carstairs

Super 4plex investment property! Each unit has 3 bedrooms & 2 baths, built in 2004, fully rented, on separate condo titles, good return on these newer units.



\$783,900

104, Westview Greens

Nice Adult condo apartment; 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 9' ceilings, corner gas fireplace, main floor location, single garage



\$169,900

38 Vilarosa Drive

Great family home, 3+1 bedrooms, 3 baths, hardwood, fully finished, vaulted ceilings, 2 tiered deck, nice yard



\$284,900

1271 - 23 Avenue

Wonderful adult living with no condo fees! open plan, hardwood, 3 sided fireplace, sunroom, loft, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, great kitchen, much more!



\$334,900

3.01 Acres Ready For Your Dream Home!

Drilled well, fenced perimeter, centrally located just 7 minutes west of Olds

\$214,900

2125 - 25 Avenue

Great newer family home that is affordable, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, corner gas fireplace, covered front entry, tiered rear deck, nice area

\$279,900

#67, Didsbury Mobile Home Park

Beautiful home on rented lot, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, vaulted ceilings, open floor plan, 1216 sq ft, only 3 years old, reasonable lot rent.



\$113,900

108 Westhill Close

Great opportunity! 1400+ sq ft and needing some attention, 3+2 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, fireplace, oversized double garage, great location



\$260,000



THE PORCH BOYZ

We'll baby you
along the way!

2102 - 20 Street

Great commercial opportunity!
5 commercial lots
on busy mainstreet in Didsbury,
130' X 130' total

\$250,000

1553 McAlpine Street, Carstairs

Brand new home, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, mainfloor laundry, vaulted ceilings, walk-through pantry, 5' basement, hardwood and more!

\$368,742

12 Westhill Place

Affordable 4 bedroom duplex, 1 1/2 baths, fully developed, huge back yard with room for garage, excellent location

\$179,900

1 Vilarosa Point

Beautiful modified bi-level, 1392 sq. ft., 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, hardwood, 3 sided gas fireplace, walk-in closet, much more!

\$329,900

9 Southridge Crescent

Affordable mobile home on its own lot backing onto coulee park

\$89,900

17 Westhill Crescent

Backing onto Park! 3 + 1 bedrooms, 3 baths, gas fireplace, vaulted ceiling, walk-up from third level, garage/workshop

\$279,900

1901 - 14 Street

Wow, beautiful 5 bedroom family home with lots of unique extras, 2 1/2 sided fireplaces, beautiful kitchen, amazing ensuite shower system, huge lot

\$399,900

2326 - 15 Avenue

Nice family home, 2 + 1 bedrooms, 2 baths, bubble jet tub, beautiful hardwood, single garage, large lot

\$249,900

39 Meadowview Court

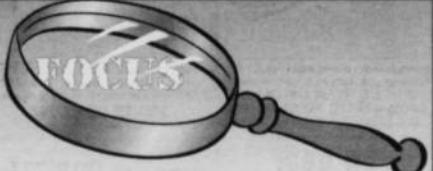
Lil' your least help pay the mortgage! 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, vaulted ceiling, gas fireplace, self contained 2 bedroom basement suite, large double garage, big lot

\$359,900

18 Vilarosa Cove

Brand new and Beautiful! over 1800 sq ft, hardwood, gas fireplace, open plan, 9' ceilings, 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, main floor laundry, walk-out basement, and much more!

\$324,900

FRONT PORCH ROCKS

**Zion Church Invites you to their
Good Friday service on
April 2nd at 10:30 and their
Easter Morning service on
April 4th at 10:45.
Everyone welcome!**

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community event in this space!**



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